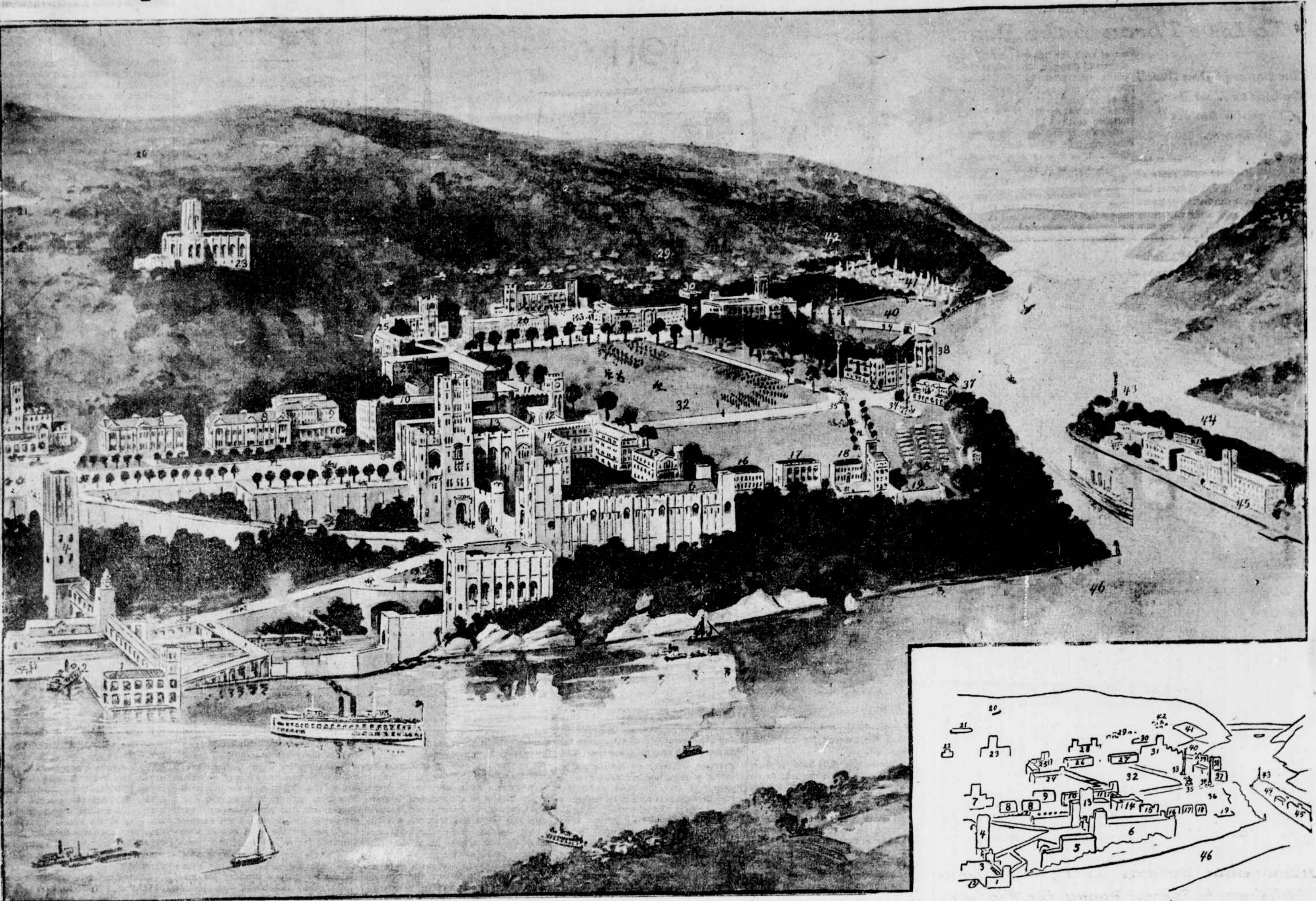


New Year Promises Much for West Point Improvement



One of Nation's Chief Military Safeguards Will Be Put on Better Basis Than Ever Before.

UP in their commodious new quarters at West Point the officers of the United States Military Academy look forward to the coming year as one of exceptional import in the annals of their famous institution. It will mark an epoch in the growth and development of the entire post, for the training of the cadets will be carried on under conditions far superior to those obtaining heretofore. Many new buildings, both academic and administrative, have been completed during 1910, and more will be finished in the near future. It is the contemplation of these added facilities which brings smiles of pleasant anticipation to the faces of the staff of instructors as they look ahead into 1911.

Now it has cost Uncle Sam just about \$7,500,000 to put those beaming smiles on the mainly countenances of his martial sons, and, of course, the public is wondering if this altruism is warranted and if it may conscientiously join in their blissful contemplation of the future.

"The best of prophets of the future is the past," wrote Lord Byron, almost a century ago, and this is the safest guide to follow in judging the case in hand. For most of the costly construction was, after all, undertaken with a view to enlarging the cadet corps, so that we ought to know the importance of the school and what manner of men it has turned out right along before deciding if we really wanted more. Besides, the new buildings were not, generally speaking, designed with the intention of changing the basic principles of the present system of training. At the same time much care and thought have been expended in bringing the methods of instruction up to date. Thus, arrangements have been made to co-ordinate the teaching of theoretic and applied science in accordance with the views of the foremost educators of the Continent, as well as of America. Other changes in the courses have also been made necessary by the ever increasing demands for the profound knowledge of our officers, particularly those stationed in the Philippines.

The importance of having our military school kept up to the utmost efficiency probably will not be doubted by any one. It is not, however, always understood that such an institution is of more critical importance to America than to any other nation in the world. The reason is this: We have a standing army of sixty to seventy thousand men. This is relatively insignificant, considering the immense length of our coast line. An attack by any power of the first class would probably call into existence—almost overnight—a volunteer army of about one million men of various degrees of ignorance regarding drill and tactics. How, then, are we to handle this horde except by having a competent corps of trained officers prepared for this very emergency?

Of course, there will be our national guard, whose spirit and courage are not to be doubted. But it is indisputably true that the most zealous officer of militia has neither time nor opportunity to

perfect himself in practical logistics (the art of moving and supplying armies) and other parts of military science to the same extent as a man whose sole occupation has been the mastery of these very branches of knowledge. This is one reason why it is pleasant to realize that the new West Point can accommodate more cadets. It is also pleasant to know that it is recognized as the best military academy in the world.

During the Hudson-Fulton celebration the reservation was visited by Rear Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, of Great Britain; Gross Admiral von Köster, of Germany; and Contre Admiral Le Port, of France. These three experts unanimously agreed that there was not such a military school in their respective countries. Field Marshal General Herbert Kitchener, of the British army, actuated only by the reputation enjoyed abroad by our institution, recommended that the Commonwealth of Australia erect a "West Point." He sent Colonel W. T. Bridges, of the British army, to collect data for this purpose, and this officer spent considerable time with the authorities in charge, gathering information on every branch of instruction. Not long ago General Kitchener inspected the post in person and said that he "felt that the half had not been told him" when he had made his recommendation to Australia.

The approval of the latest installation and buildings by so competent a judge is a splendid vindication of the discernment of our own men, when opinions might reasonably have been considered biased. It means that an already eminent establishment is on the road to even greater distinction; and that looks as if our Uncle Sam had been spending his money wisely.

Having thus had a glimpse of the plant, let us take a look at the product. It goes without saying that honor is the keynote of the cadets' moral training. A man found deficient in character in any respect is dismissed. That is why the graduates one meets are always such straightforward, clean-cut chaps. It takes little experience to recognize the hallmark of West Point. Physical and moral courage are essentials, the great stress placed on the former by the corps being logically justified by the contention that war is a brutal business, calling for brute qualities to meet its exigencies. Moral courage is of little use to the soldier when it is not strong enough to keep his feet from speedily carrying him from the scene of combat.

The mental training is well on a level with the high moral standards maintained. No matter which corps a cadet may desire to join on graduation, whether it be the ordnance department, the engineers, coast or field artillery, cavalry, infantry or the General Staff, he must be proficient in every minute detail of the duties of an officer in any one of the departments named. If he is not, he will not be retained at the academy. Requirements of such comprehensive severity make for competent graduates. This has been proved in practice.

A quaint incident, illustrating the appreciation of another nation, occurred

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW WHEN THE NEW BUILDINGS ARE COMPLETED.

(1) Steamboat landing. (2) Ferry slip. (3) Railway station. (4) Elevator tower. (5) Power house. (6) The great riding hall which is to be completed in 1911. (7) Hotel. (8) Buildings for a use not yet decided. (9) Cadet hospital. (10) Mess hall. (11) Academic building. (12) Gymnasium. (13) Post headquarters. (14) East academy. (15) Library. (16) Officers' mess. (17) Cullum Hall. (18) Bachelor officers' quarters. (19) Battery Knox. (20) Fort Putnam. (21) Lusk Reservoir. (22) Site for observatory. (23) Chapel. (24) Cadet barracks. (25) Cadet headquarters. (26) Cadet barracks. (27) Cadet barracks. (28) Gymnasium. (29) Married officers' quarters. (30) Stadium. (31) Quartermaster's group. (32) Parade ground. (33) Old battle monument. (34) New battle monument. (35) Washington statue. (36) Summer camp. (37) Headquarters of superintendent and staff. (38) Tower of north gate. (39) Dock. (40) Polo field. (41) Cemetery. (42) Enlisted men's quarters. (43) Proposed monument to soldiers of Revolution. (44) Constitution island. (45) Proposed preparatory school. (46) Hudson River.

while Major Tilson, of the United States Infantry, ruled over the American concession in Peking after the Boxer troubles. It was impossible, during the

actual progress of the fighting, to prevent the enlisted men from looting the temples and sometimes even residences. As soon, however, as peace was restored

and each one of the foreign nations had acquired by mutual agreement a section of the city for its exclusive permanent use, Major Tilson had a thorough search

Work Is Being Pushed Rapidly on the New Structures Contracted For and More Are Projected.

made and recovered most of the stolen money and other treasure. Certain of the articles which were identified beyond a doubt were returned to the temples whence they had been taken, the other things were sold at public auction, but the money remained. Bent on giving the natives a "square deal," he applied the entire amount to the cleaning up and rendering sanitary of the section around the American concession. This, as well as his uniform kindness and justice, endeared him to the hearts of the Celestials, so that, when they learned of his proposed recall to the United States they were deeply grieved and decided to petition him to remain and to rule them forever. Accordingly, the next morning a solemn procession of gorgeous Orientals moved upon the major's headquarters, bearing nine tremendous ceremonial umbrellas hung with petitions and declarations of appreciation written on narrow slips of paper. These strange tokens of esteem may be seen in the new museum at West Point, to which Major Tilson presented them.

One of the much needed improvements at the school is the strong safe in this museum, in which the many valuable presentation swords in the possession of the academy are kept.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the new structure is the success achieved in combining beauty and dignity without losing the effect of the simplicity becoming in buildings of this description. The interior equipment is of the best quality, without, however, the least trace of luxury having been allowed to creep in. This is as true of the new cavalry barracks and stables as of the superintendent's private office. Serviceability is the keynote throughout.

The architecture is of the ecclesiastical style, characteristic of the architects Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson. It is based on English Tudor Gothic, stately, rugged and massive. The stone of which they are built is a gneiss rock, quarried right on the reservation, an economy of considerable importance. Its rich, gray tone is well in harmony with the Hudson Highlands, where the buildings stand. The material of such of the old buildings as were demolished was used as far as possible in the construction of the new ones. A notable exception to this is the old chapel, which was carefully taken down and rebuilt, stone for stone, in the cemetery, where, furnished as heretofore

with the famous picture by Professor Weir, its flags, motto, trophies and tablets, it is to serve as a mortuary chapel. The regular post chapel has been erected on the hill behind the new academic building. It is a striking edifice in a striking location, dominating the entire reservation—the one tribute to emotion in a place where system reigns supreme.

In 1909 Congress passed a law permitting the various appointees to enter the academy when their predecessors have completed their third year, instead of waiting for them to finish their fourth, which was formerly the rule. This brings the authorized strength of the cadet corps in 1911 up to 630, as compared to 533 in 1910. Naturally the accommodations are now ample for an even greater number, so that it will hereafter be possible to increase the corps in proportion to the national needs.

The additional officers necessary for supervising and instructing the cadets will be well housed in the various quarters recently constructed for the purpose, and the horses which had to be added for use in the cavalry drill are stabled under ideal conditions at the southern end of the reservation. The riding hall, which will be completed this year, will be monumental in its dimensions. The tankard ring alone will be 565 feet long by 135 feet wide.

The completion of the riding hall is the last touch to be put upon the buildings that crown the Hudson River front. Even now this splendid group is an inspiring sight from the river. The gray buttressed walls of the power house flank the riding school, which towers massively above it. Both of these structures show a large proportion of dead wall surface, so that they give the impression of the outer fortifications of a medieval castle. This illusion is heightened by the beautiful soaring administration building, which rises behind them, presenting a facade relieved by numerous deep cut windows. On the hill, which forms a dark background to enhance the effectiveness of all this splendid architecture, is throned the glorious chapel.

It seems not unbecoming, therefore, for us to join the officers of the academy in the pleased and confident smile which cost Uncle Sam \$7,500,000, and to look ahead to 1911 as a year which will bring practically to completion the great enterprise of perfecting the finest military academy in the world.

Uncle Sam's Fortune for 1911

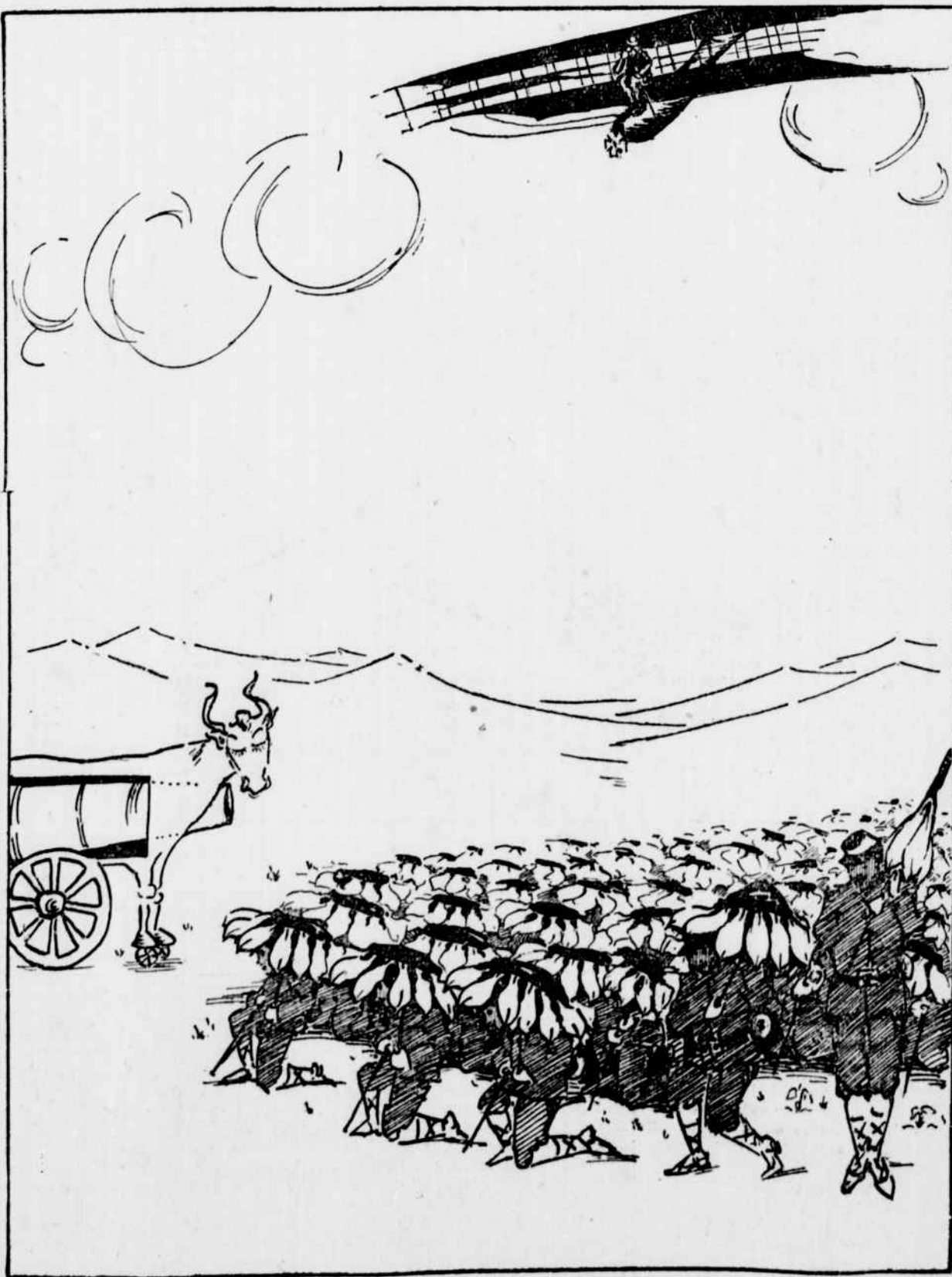
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"Your subways criss-cross the island and extend far out into the suburbs in all directions." "Good! Good!" chuckled Father Knickerbocker, rubbing his hands together. "And everywhere," went on the monotonous voice of the medium, "I see the same old smelly, crowded, jam-'em-in-by-force scrimmage going on at all the stations, with passengers rammed like sardines into the

cars, and not even enough straps for half of them to hang to, and"

But a resounding thwack from Father Knickerbocker's thick cane as he brought it down on her table suddenly recalled the woman from her trance and cut short her prophecy.

"This creature is an impostor!" shouted the enraged old man to Uncle Sam. "I told you so from the start. Come away, come away!" and he stumbled down the stairs, fairly blithering with rage. Uncle Sam followed, chuckling softly.



DECEIVING AN AIR SCOUT.

SOME WAR TACTICS OF THE FUTURE THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAUGHT AT WEST POINT. Lieutenant Walter E. Prosser, of the United States Field Artillery, writing aeroplanes that the field army of the